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4 **A RESOLUTION**

5
6 Recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and urging the
7 community to "Keep Us Safe" through personal actions and the use of domestic
8 violence resources
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11 WHEREAS, domestic violence, or intimate partner violence (IPV), is an issue that
12 has far reaching consequences impacting not only the survivors and their children, but
13 the community as a whole; and
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15 WHEREAS, nationwide more than 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have
16 experienced rape, sexual violence, physical violence, psychological violence, and/or
17 stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime; and
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19 WHEREAS, nationwide an average of three women are killed by a current or
20 former intimate partner every day; and
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22 WHEREAS, in Wisconsin in 2015 domestic violence claimed the lives of 58
23 women, men, and children; and
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25 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission reports that in the first
26 six months of 2016, there was a 100 percent increase (4 to 8) in homicides involving
27 IPV and a 700 percent increase in non-fatal shootings involving IPV; and
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29 WHEREAS, the presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the
30 risk of homicide by 500 percent and since 2005, firearms have accounted for more
31 domestic violence homicides than all other methods of killing combined; and
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33 WHEREAS, it is estimated that 15.5 million children in the United States live in
34 families where domestic violence occurred at least once in the past year; and
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36 WHEREAS, children who witness domestic violence:

- 37 • Are six times more likely than other children to die before the age of 5
- 38 • Often meet diagnostic criteria for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD),
39 similar to experienced combat veterans
- 40 • May have altered DNA, aging them prematurely 7-10 years
- 41 • Are neglected at a rate 1500 percent higher than the national average
- 42 • Are six times more likely to commit suicide
- 43 • Are 74 percent more likely to commit a violent crime

44 ; and

45 WHEREAS, economic security and personal safety are inextricably linked for
46 survivors of domestic violence with many unable to leave an abusive situation for fear of
47 the inability to provide for themselves and/or their children; and

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49 WHEREAS, the cost of intimate partner rape, physical assault, and stalking
50 exceed \$5.8 billion each year – nearly \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and
51 mental health care services; and

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53 WHEREAS, domestic violence is a community issue and the community can
54 come together to end domestic violence, people like Jodine Basterash, founder of
55 Adore to Empower, Rev. Dr. Alice Belcher, founder of Impact Coalition for Families, and
56 Cyrena Martin, founder of Mahogany C.A.R.E.S., who are survivor-advocates that
57 founded organizations to educate the public and support and empower survivors of
58 domestic violence; and

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60 WHEREAS, public awareness has the potential to increase the identification and
61 reporting of abuse by the public, professionals, and survivors themselves; now,
62 therefore,

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64 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors recognizes
65 the month of October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month with a focus on
66 community involvement and a message to “Keep Us Safe”; and

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68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Board recognizes October 20,
69 2016, as National #PurpleThursday, and encourages the community to wear the color
70 purple on that day in recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month; and

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72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Board recognizes three influential
73 domestic violence survivor-advocates, Jodine Basterash, Alice Belcher, and Cyrena
74 Martin for their tireless work educating the community and supporting and empowering
75 survivors of domestic violence; and

76
77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Board urges the community to
78 help “Keep Us Safe” through personal actions and the use of domestic violence
79 resources, such as the Sojourner Peace House Domestic Violence Hotline, the Hmong
80 Domestic Violence Helpline, the Latina Resource Center, Milwaukee Women’s Center
81 Crisis Line and Shelter, Adore To Empower, Impact Coalition for Families, and
82 Mahogany C.A.R.E.S.